GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:459
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2007
CONSERVATION OF WETLANDS
Shaheen Shri Abdul Rashid

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether wetlands of the country are shrinking;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has identified wetlands and formulated any plan for conservation and management of such wetlands;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and

(e) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 459 DUE FOR REPLY ON 07.05.2007 REGARDING `CONSERVATION OF WETLANDS` BY SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Many of the Wetlands in the country are shrinking in size due to anthropogenic pressures, uncontrolled siltation, weed infestation, discharge of sewage & industrial effluents, surface run-off, chemical pesticides and fertilizers.

(c) & (d) Ministry of Environment and Forests has identified 94 wetlands in the country, covering 23 States and one Union Territory, for conservation and management under National Wetland Conservation Programme. The activities for which 100% assistance is given include survey & demarcation, catchment area treatment, desilting & dredging, bio-fencing, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation, pollution abatement, education & awareness and community participation. Research organizations are also assisted for Research & Development activities in priority areas of research to supplement Management Action Plans. List of identified wetlands, State/UT-wise is enclosed at Annexure I.

(e) An amount of Rs 53.00 crores has been released for conservation of identified wetlands for undertaking various conservation activities in the country right from the inception of the Programme till date. An amount of Rs. 10 crore has been ear-marked for the year 2007-08. The details of funds released state wise under National Wetland Conservation Programme are given in Annexure II.